

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 26-32 remain in this application. Claims 7-25 and 33 have been canceled.

Applicants appreciate the indication, at page 7, item 6, of the Office Action that claims 1-6 and 26-32 are allowed.

The amendment cancels withdrawn claims 7-17 and 21-25, and cancels rejected claims 18-20 and 33. These claims are canceled without further prejudice toward the filing of a continuation application directed toward the subject matter of any of the withdrawn and/or rejected claims.

The Office Action rejects claims 18-20 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and also under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over SELF et al., in view of ARAI et al. Although Applicants do not concede to the merits of these rejections, for the sake of advancing prosecution of the present application, claims 18-20 and 33 are canceled.

Accordingly, this application is in condition for allowance.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/H. James Voeller/  
H. James Voeller, Reg. No. 48,015  
Customer No. 00466  
209 Madison Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

HJV/jr